

REMARKS

Pursuant to discussion between Examiner David L. Vanik and Applicants' representative, Jeffrey A. Wolfson, on March 17, 2006, Applicants present the following comments, which are substantially in accord with those presented during the discussion.

Claims 24, 32-35, 37-44, 60, 63, and 64, as amended, are pending for the Examiner's review and consideration. Applicants appreciate recognition of the allowability of claims 36 and 37. Claims 6, 12, 13, 17-23, 25-29, 36, 45-57, 59, 61, 62, and 65-67 have been cancelled herein without prejudice to Applicants' rights to file one or more continuing or divisional applications directed to this or other unclaimed subject matter. Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 36. As Applicants hereby request that coextensive method claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 60, 63, and 64 be rejoined with the allowed product claims, claims 60, 63 and 64 have been amended to depend from claim 32. Product claims 24 and 37 have been amended accordingly. Claim 63 has been further amended to recite sustained release of Ac—D—Nal—D—Cpa—D—Pal—Ser—Tyr—D—Hci—Leu—Ilys—Pro—D—Ala—NH₂·trifluoroacetate for at least one month to about 45 days (*See, e.g.*, Specification at page 2, 4th paragraph, line 5). Claims 40, 41, 43, and 44 already depend from allowable claim 32. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, such that their entry at this time is warranted.

With respect to claim 32, the general nature of isotonic agents is well-known. Typical examples include glycerin, propylene glycol, mannitol, glucose, sodium chloride, and potassium chloride. Determination of the amounts and types of isotonic agents to be used in conjunction with the claimed invention is merely routine experimentation for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly when reference is made to the specification describing the invention.

Accordingly, the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with the Applicants' position, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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